



Adelaide Park Lands Association

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NEWS RELEASE

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If not now, then when? Four-year heritage delay anniversary

Tomorrow, 6 December, marks the fourth anniversary of a recommendation from the State Heritage Council, for State Heritage-listing of the Adelaide Park Lands.

The recommendation on 6 December 2018 followed a lengthy process in 2017 of evaluating your Park Lands against legislated Heritage standards, and a community survey which attracted 1,747 responses.

In 2017, the Government's appointed heritage consultants found indisputable and extensive evidence that the Adelaide Park Lands easily meet statutory criteria for heritage listing.

Likewise, there was overwhelming community support for the move.

ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AND CITY SQUARES YourSay Consultation 2017

Snapshot of survey results - Heritage South Australia, November 2017

You said...

"The park lands
are a rare jewel"

"Without the park lands,
it is not Adelaide."

"Park lands are vital to our health
and pleasure"

1,747 people did the 9-question survey.

97% agreed that the Adelaide Park Lands were
important to them.

88% thought that the Adelaide Park Lands
should be State heritage-listed.

www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au

However, over the intervening four years, neither the former Liberal State Government nor the current Labor State Government has acted upon the Heritage Council's recommendation.

Adelaide Park Lands Association President, Shane Sody says that over the past four years, each Government has relied upon a feeble excuse that a conservation plan is needed as a first step. This is not a prerequisite for State Heritage status.

"In recent days, the Liberal Opposition has acknowledged public disquiet on the lack of action, and is supporting a push for **World** Heritage listing of your Adelaide Park Lands," Mr Sody said. "This is very welcome, but doesn't shift the dial on the long-neglected issue of **State** heritage listing."

"The historic, environmental and cultural values of your Adelaide Park Lands need to be acknowledged, promptly, by State Heritage listing. Details of a conservation plan can follow. There is already a statutory plan for managing the Adelaide Park Lands.

"It's been:

- 14 years since your Park Lands received National Heritage listing (2008);
- 13 years since your Park Lands were **nominated** for State Heritage listing (2009);
- five years since the public was consulted on the idea (2017); and
- four years today since the State Heritage Council, chaired by Keith Conlon, made its recommendation to the then-State Government."

Surprisingly, in October 2022, the State Labor Government voted in Parliament AGAINST a Bill (moved by the Greens' Robert Simms) that would have required that recommendation to come into effect.

Remarkably, Deputy Premier Susan Close pushed back on that Bill, on the spurious grounds that the public, and the State Heritage Council both needed to be involved.

Mr Sody has written to Dr Close to point out that her pre-conditions have already been met.

"The public and the Heritage Council have had their say, long ago" Mr Sody said. "The public has been waiting in vain for action now, for many years. There must be no more excuses from the Government."

Read Mr Sody's letter to the Deputy Premier. (PDF, 2pp, 103Kb)

<https://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/s/Letter-to-Deputy-Premier-re-Heritage-and-Brownfield-sites-2022-11-29.pdf>

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BACKGROUND

The 2017 report by heritage consultants, Dash Architects: (PDF, 91pp, 48 Mb)

<https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/docs/her-gen-adelaide-park-lands-heritage-assessment-report.pdf>

APA's chronology of lack of progress, including ministerial and departmental correspondence:

www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/heritage

www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au